

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7 and 13-17 are allowed.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected.

Claims 10-12 are objected to.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claims 1-17 remain in the case for consideration.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kurata (Pub. U.S. Patent No. 2004/0042272). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 8 in the present application recites, “*A NAND-type flash memory device including a memory cell array having a plurality of memory blocks, comprising:*

a status cell array having a plurality of status cells and structured to store data indicating an erase/program status of the memory blocks;

a write circuit for storing data into the status cell array when a state of one or more of the plurality of memory blocks changes; and

a read circuit for reading data from the status cell array.”

Claim 9 includes a limitation of claim 8, “*wherein the status cell array can be read faster than one of the memory blocks can be read.*”

Contrary to the Examiner’s statement that all elements in claims 8 and 9 are disclosed in the Kurata reference, all of the elements are not disclosed. Nothing in Kurata discloses a *status cell array in addition to a memory cell array*. Kurata only discloses memory cells arranged in a matrix, as shown in FIG. 2A. Therefore, the rejections are unsupported by the art. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8 and 9 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, Applicants assert that independent claim 9 is allowable over the prior art. Claims 10-12, dependent therefrom, also are allowable, as originally claimed, since they depend from an allowable claim and because of their own merits. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Limited Recognition Under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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